The Lions' Pride

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Acclimating to the Lion Life

By Racheljoy Capitola
Editor-in-Chief

On Aug. 22, first year students and their parents teamed up to drag suitcases and boxes into Marmion and Snyder, Benoit, or Henderson, which marked the beginning of freshmen orientation week. For many of these students, this will be the first time they have lived away from home and on their own.

The University provided events to help integrate the new students into the community: a matriculation ceremony, a trip to Disney, a movie trip, and CAB events. Many of these events provided entertainment and allowed students to form relationships before and throughout the first week of school.

On move-in day, the weather was bright and sunny. SLU volunteers - including staff, organizations, and Greek Life – offered to help freshmen students carry their belongings into their dorms rooms.

"[The day was] hot and sweaty," said Freshman Stephanie Lawson. But someone helped her move all of her stuff as she sought to find her room.

As students introduced themselves to their roommates, they were given time to grow accustomed to the dorm life. The student lounges and common areas opened up to play games of pool and places to hang out.

"Iím getting used to it (the idea of not being home)," said Freshman Marlene Camacho. "I mean, I still miss everyone. But everyone here is so welcoming, so I think that helps a lot."

"It was a really easy transition because everyone here is so friendly," said Freshman Christina Notman.

Many students have expressed positive regards to living on campus. However, no place is perfect. New students struggle to find wifi-hotspots and to accept communal bathrooms.

"I donít like the bathrooms. Thatís it," said Freshman Richard Chery.

"The one thing I really hate is the wifi. It sucks. I canít live like this," said Camacho. "Everything is so slow. I donít get much signal all the time. But other than that, I like this school a lot. Iím glad I came here."

Besides learning about campus life, freshmen were taken to Walt Disneyís Magic Kingdom Park as a part of their orientation week. The trip was commonly mentioned as one of the most memorable first-year experience events: both good and bad.

Many students complained that the trip was too long.

"Torture. We were there for like twelve hours," said Lawson. "It was fun, but we were just there for too long."

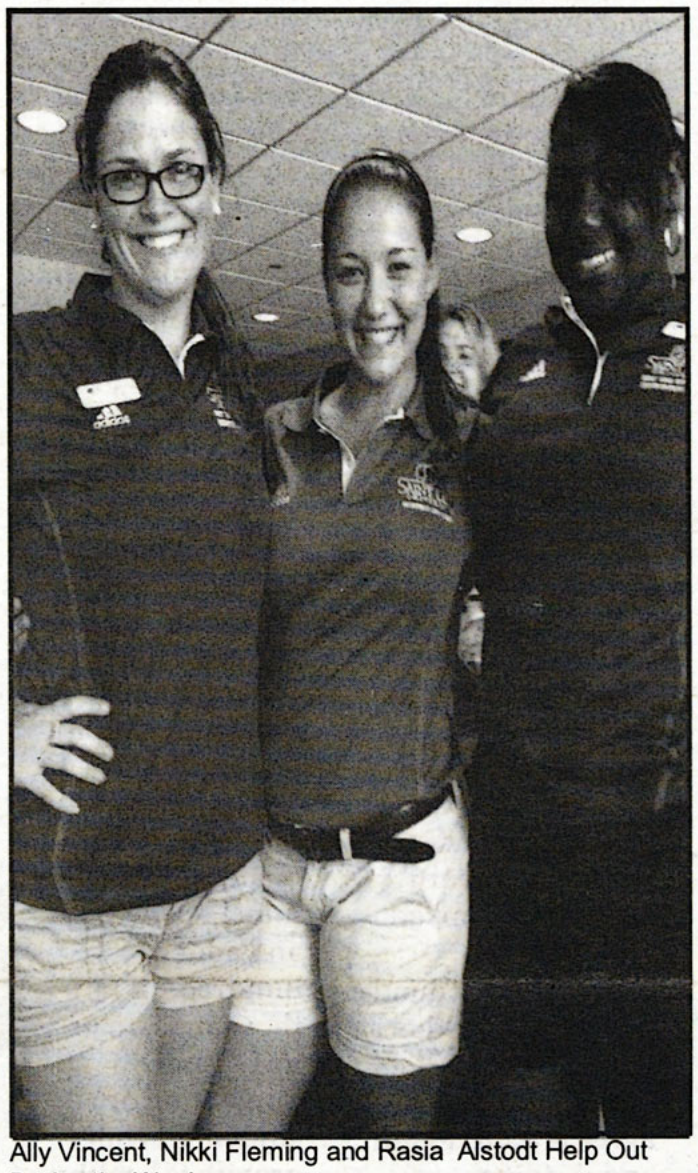
Other students thought the trip was perfectly timed.

"I liked it. I didnít think it was too long," said Camacho. "It was Magic Kingdom. Everybody looked forward to the fireworks at night. If we had left earlier, we wouldnít have seen them. It gives you time to do everything."

Whether or not students enjoyed the Magic Kingdom Park, they returned with memories to bring back with them.

Classes started on Tuesday, Aug. 27, of that week. The University proved that they provided more than a social opportuntity. Most freshmen discovered that university professors handed out detailed syllabi and that class schedules were unusual to what they were used to.

"Itís really different from high school, but I like it. I like how they (the teachers) all try to help you," said Camacho.



Ally Vincent, Nikki Fleming and Rasia Alstodt Help Out During the Week.

Photo Given by Ally Vincent

"There was a lot to remember," said Lawson.

Activities were also held throughout the week to further incorporate freshmen into the rest of the student body. Events such as a pool party, a bingo game, and an activities fair gave students the chance to mingle with upperclassmen and to see the Universityís organizations in action as they sponsored and recruited for clubs. Countless of volunteer opportunities were offered to new students looking to get involved in projects both on and off campus.

The first week ended with a Back to School Bash to celebrate everyoneís return to student life.

"My first week I think was pretty awesome because they put out everything for us. It was weird to not be at home, but they didnít really give you time to sit down and be sad about it with all the activities," said Camacho.

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Opinions

Is Saint Leo University Growing Too Fast?

Negative View Point

By Jessica Miller
Layout Editor

If you were blindfolded before and during the drive to the university, then had the covering removed as the vehicle touched the campus pavement, what would be the first thoughts in your head? Most would be surprised to hear that the university is in such a small town, near a small city, in the middle of farmlands.

It is a delight to any new comer that comes onto the campus to see the up-to-date technology and charm of modern architecture mixed with friendly, contemporary minds that come together to make what thousands would agree is a successful and thriving university. As a third year student at Saint Leo, I have seen many changes. Everything seems to have changed in the few years I have called the campus home – from living to eating to learning. The University is pushing forward a little faster every year to make the University achieve and expand more.

However, is bigger really better for a small time, big accomplishment University? A University that just graduated from being a college less than twenty years ago! In a handful of years, the University has added a new School of Business Building, an underground parking garage, new residence halls, made the "bowl" into a "pancake," and added hundreds, if not thousands, to its increasing population of students. While growth is healthy for any type of economy, it has concerned me that the University is growing too fast in an already fast-pace world. I see it in the Dining Hall when students cram within inches of one another and in my classes as students rub up against my elbows. The freshmen population increases and so does the amount of transfer students. While this is ideal to increase the economy at the University, it means more work for the staff and students who were told when they entered of the personal attention they would receive in each of their classes. Although, we are nowhere near the class sizes of some more popular state universities, they do give a perfect example of what type of university we could become if we keep progressing in at the rate that we do.

The University as a whole, with our experienced leader Dr. Arthur Kirk, help most students to feel unfazed by of all the changes and additions the University is creating. Buildings, both residential and academic, are helping to expand already bright minds at a higher pace they the founding monks and nuns probably ever thought possible.

In addition, I also do not believe the monks and nuns ever would have thought they would become more and more distant from the university and its curriculum. We, the people of the university, still see touches of tradition and snippets of our history around campus and in classrooms. I see less and less concern and information given to the time capsule statue that welcomes students to the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library and another statue sitting with his arm extended to the sky that meets those who travel in between the Student Activates Building and the Student Community Center in order to make way for the new time capsule at the new business school.

I encourage the University to keep growing and proposing, but I also ask that it preserves the university's long and amazing history. Perhaps a small building or office that is an information center would serve the University well. It can do things such as short presentations or have dioramas of the progress of the school and all its accomplishments before we all forget details. Thus, when someone takes off that blindfold, maybe, just maybe, the first thing they comment on will be something along the lines of "Look at how far they have come."

The Lions' Pride
(352) 588-8316
Student Activities Center, Office 106
33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

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Opinions

Is Saint Leo University Growing Too Fast?

Positive View Point

By Ashley Reynolds
Entertainment Editor

More students, more classes, more majors, more buildings- in recent years, Saint Leo has grown exponentially, from being a tiny university no one has ever heard of to being a medium-sized university almost no one has ever heard of.

Saint Leo is aggressively recruiting seemingly everywhere- billboards have sprung up in Jacksonville, letters have been sent to students across the country, and emails have been sent to seemingly everyone that the University can contact, both locally and internationally. New education centers are popping up every year, and online classes are more popular than ever. That's not to mention how much the main campus has grown just in the last few years.

With all this growth, some have been speculating if Saint Leo has been growing too fast for its own good. Housing fills up fast, and even with the new apartment buildings, there is barely enough space for all of the University's residents. However, such speculation leaves out all the positive effects of Saint Leo's growth. Saint Leo's rapid expansion has attracted even more students; more than 650 freshmen started this semester alone.

The more students we have, the wider the variety of classes will be. We currently offer over degrees in over 40 fields, and with more students, we can offer even more. Despite the influx, Saint Leo maintains its small class size, a marked difference from large universities such as the University of South Florida. Since more classes will be needed to accommodate these new students, schedules will be more flexible; instead of one section of a particular class at one time, there could be two or three offered on different days. This will be especially useful for certain majors such as English where the majority of classes are Mondays and Wednesdays, leaving students rushed on two days of the week and with nothing to do on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

More students means more wealth generated for the University- wealth that has been put back into the University through new buildings, more facilities, and more housing. Students most certainly have been benefitting from the additions. The new music building (adapted from the old admissions building) is a welcome addition to the University, and will attract more students interested in the arts. As a liberal arts school, startlingly little arts are available. Talk of a new amphitheater is also in the works, which will be a great space for dramaturgy students to perform. Currently, the only formal space available is Selby, a tiny performance space with no backstage. The amphitheater will be a good place for students to gather and for the University to hold public events.

As for housing, the University is trying to keep up with the sudden increase. It's obvious Saint Leo isn't willing to cut corners; new apartments five and six are beautiful, spacious, and nicely furnished. The two buildings combined house about 300 students. There have been complaints that there aren't enough rooms for the freshmen, and so some have been allowed to live in the new apartments. However, the students in the new buildings are generally older than most of the freshmen entering the University. These new apartments are a nicer version of the freshmen dorms, and new students are still required to pay for the full meal plan.

Hopefully, the University will eventually allow more students to live off campus. Currently, students with more than 90 credit hours are permitted to live off campus. Many larger universities such as the University of Central Florida in Orlando offer an off campus option to students with as few as 30 completed credit hours. With Saint Leo filling up faster than it can build new housing units, more upperclassmen might have more housing options in the surrounding area.

As for the cost, Saint Leo's tuition has been increasing at a much slower rate than public universities, which are experiencing an extreme increase in cost. According to bigfuture.collegeboard.org, at Saint Leo, 71 percent of students' financial needs are met on average, while at the close by University of South Florida, only 47 percent of needs are met. Saint Leo awards an average of $18,921 in a financial aid package; USF awards $10,143. While Saint Leo, as a private university, certainly costs more, it isn't leaving its students high and dry, and still tries to keep its education affordable, despite its growth. In fact, 96 percent of Saint Leo students receive institutional grants. Dade City and other surrounding areas are certainly reaping the economic benefits. More students means more customers for local business.

Saint Leo has proven it isn't willing to lower its quality of education. In fact, Saint Leo ranked 67 in the 2013 Best Colleges Regional Universities (South). New facilities are state-of-the-art, technology is improving, and by all means, the University seems to be able to keep up with the rapidly growing student population.

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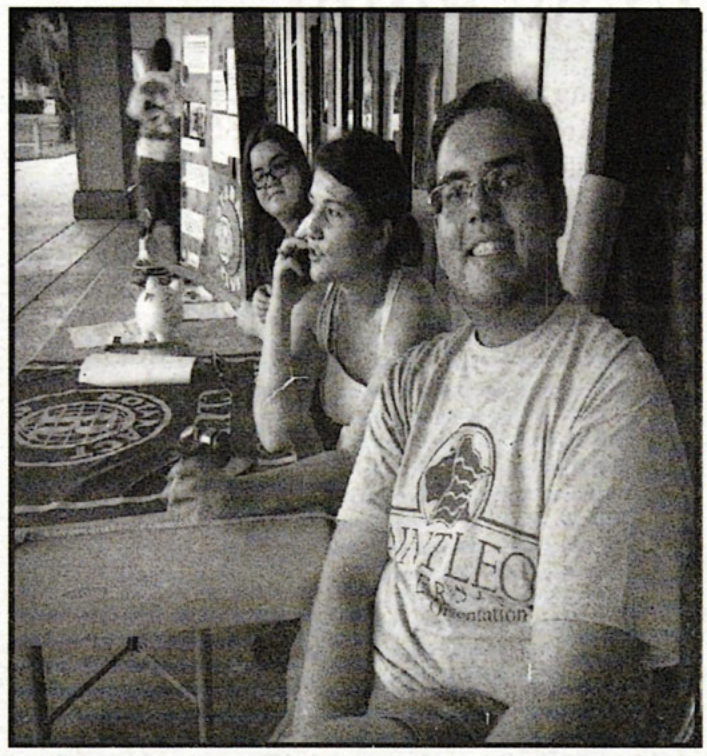
Campus News

Student Activities Fair!

By Racheljoy Capitola
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday August 28th various clubs and service organizations set up tables from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. in the courtyard outside of the SAB building for the Activities Fair. This event was primarily informative. It gave new students a taste of what activities the campus has to offer and how they can get involved. Each table had something to entice new recruits like colorful poster boards, signs, flyers, and free stuff. Club members proudly advertised their clubs and helpfully answered the questions of anyone who displayed interest. Interested students could then sign up on the clubs email list. There was also a stand giving out free ice cream. The ice cream stand drew a decent sized crowd the entire evening. What the students have to say:



Freshman Corey McCaffrey (left) and Sophomore Courtney Sullivan (right) hang out together as they explore the activities fair.

Photo Taken By Racheljoy Capitola

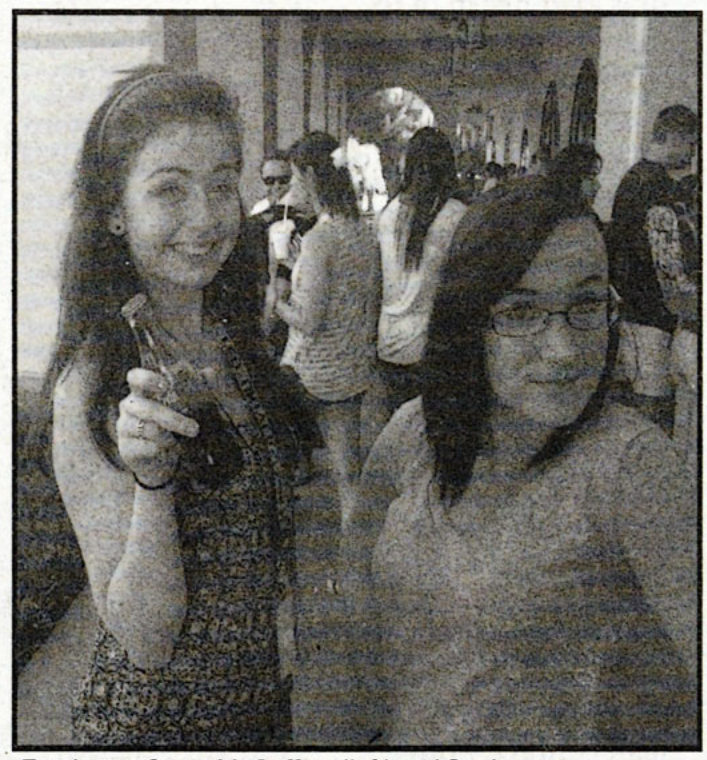
"I think it is a great way to show new students what we have to offer, and the ice cream is really good if you're willing to wait in the line."
Beverly Mejias
Sophomore

"Its really nice. There is a variety of groups and activities. They are very friendly. They gave us free things and had fun activities."
Mariana Ortega
Freshman

"I'm checking out some sororities and community service organizations."
Amanda Goetz

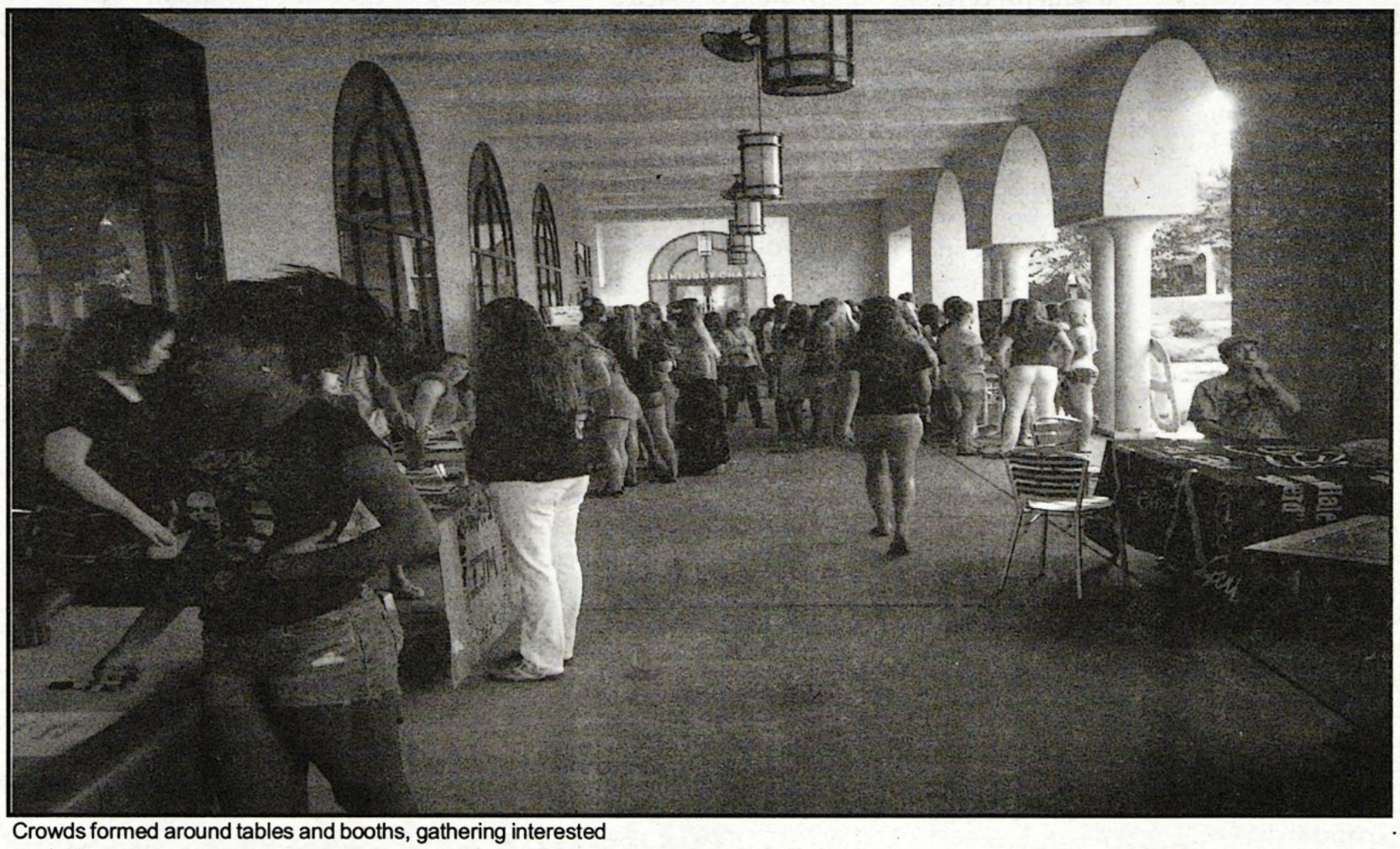
What do you think of this event?

"I think it is a good way to get new students involved on campus and to join different organizations."
Orlando Rolim (Rotaract Club)
Sophomore



Freshman Corey McCaffrey (left) and Sophomore Courtney Sullivan (right) hang out together as they explore the activities fair.

Photo Taken By Racheljoy Capitola



Crowds formed around tables and booths, gathering interested students.

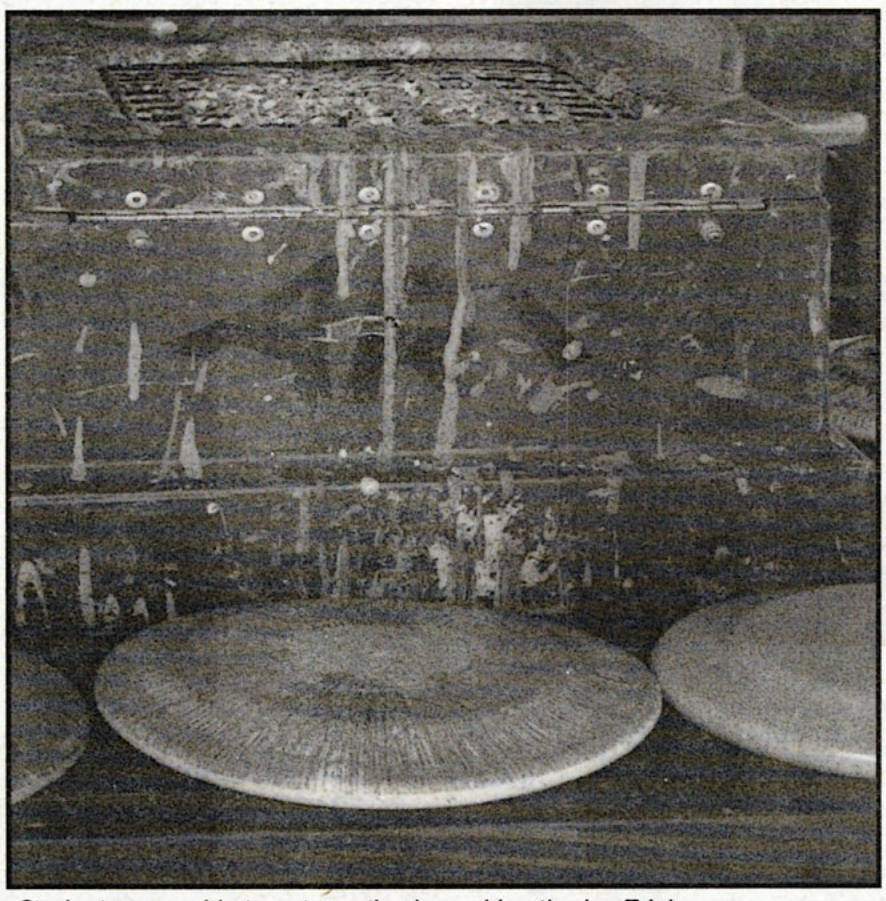
Photo Taken By Racheljoy Capitola

Campus News

CAB's Back to School Bash!

By Racheljoy Capitola
Editor-in-Chief

On Saturday August 31st, SLU held its annual Back to School Bash in The Bowl from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m. The most noticeable attraction was the rock climbing wall for those brave enough to tackle it. There was also inflatable basketball hoops and an inflatable fighting square in which you could grab cushioned sticks and whack your friends. The smoothie stand provided cool refreshments which were greatly appreciated on a hot August day. The largest crowd was concentrated around the tents housing the novelties. You could use an electric tool to carve whatever you wanted into brightly colored bracelets, make a custom paint splattered Frisbee, or have your picture printed on a dry erase board. It was a time of fun activities and free stuff to celebrate the beginning of the school year.



Students were able to get creative by making tie-dye Frisbees within these machines.

Photo Taken By Racheljoy Capitola

Junior Sabia Simms pushes the button at the top of the rock climbing wall which announces her success.

Photo Taken By Racheljoy Capitola

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Arts & Entertainment

Twerk! Twerk! Twerk!

By Jocelyne Hilary
Staff Witer

Last Sunday saw the annual VMA awards, and this year the show, renowned for its extravagance, was hosted in Brooklyn, New York. With an event promising an all-star celebrity line up, huge red carpet, fashion frenzy and crazy performances, there was no doubt it was going to be the talk of the week. The event is always highly anticipated by music enthusiasts, and rumors of boy band NSYNC's reunion were causing a social media frenzy. With confirmed performances by Katy Perry, Kanye West and Justin Timberlake, fans eagerly waited for the 2013 VMAs to begin.

The event kicked off with the usual red carpet that welcomed celebrities to the event, and as usual the question most people wanted to know was "who's wearing who?"

The opening number was from none other than Lady Gaga, who took to the stage with an extravagant yet bizarre performance that was not out of her nature. Following performances included those from rappers Kanye West and Drake, Katy Perry and Bruno Mars. Yet the performance that most fans were looking forward to was that of the "president of pop" and the 2013 recipient of the "Michael Jackson Vanguard award" Justin Timberlake. The vanguard award is considered the most prestigious award of the VMA's alongside "Video of the Year."

Timberlake's performance took fans and fellow celebrities back down memory lane as he performed a medley of his hits. Rumors had turned out to be true, as former boy band NSYNC reunited and took to the stage.

Despite Timberlake's return to music after six years away, there was only one person who stole the show and was the talk of the town, former Disney star Miley Cyrus. The twenty year old caused controversy and a social media cyclone as she did a raunchy performance. The VMAs are traditionally known for such performances, yet no one anticipated the extreme it would go to. The starlet performed her current single "We Can't Stop" and then joined Robin Thicke in his performance of "Blurred Lines." Cyrus was in PVC lingerie, constantly sticking her tongue out, "twerking," and acting inappropriately.

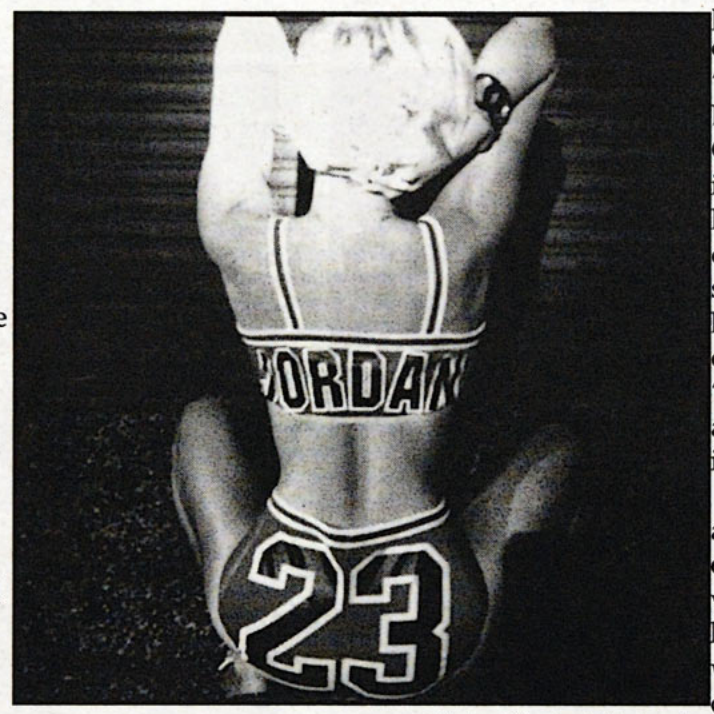

Photo From Miley Cyrus Twitter Account

Celebs at the event and viewers at home were in quite some shock following her performance. Senior Bobby Cote expressed his opinion on Cyrus' performance "I thought it was a huge disappointment in comparison to the character she once portrayed. She used to be an icon for little girls and a role model, and now she's become the total opposite of who she used to exemplify. It has to be disappointing for her family, her father especially, who had got her into music, because this is in nowhere near the image he would have wanted his daughter to hold."

Senior Nancy Padron agreed with his statement. "I think Miley went over the top, she looked desperate for publicity and it was all negative in the end so I don't think it was worth it. She made a lot of people uncomfortable including Robin Thicke, and not to mention her young fans. I understand that she wants to let go of her Disney image but you don't have to about it the way she did. Also, the VMA's this year was paying tribute to Justin Timberlake's musical career and his return to the scene, yet all people seem to remember is Miley's horrific performance."

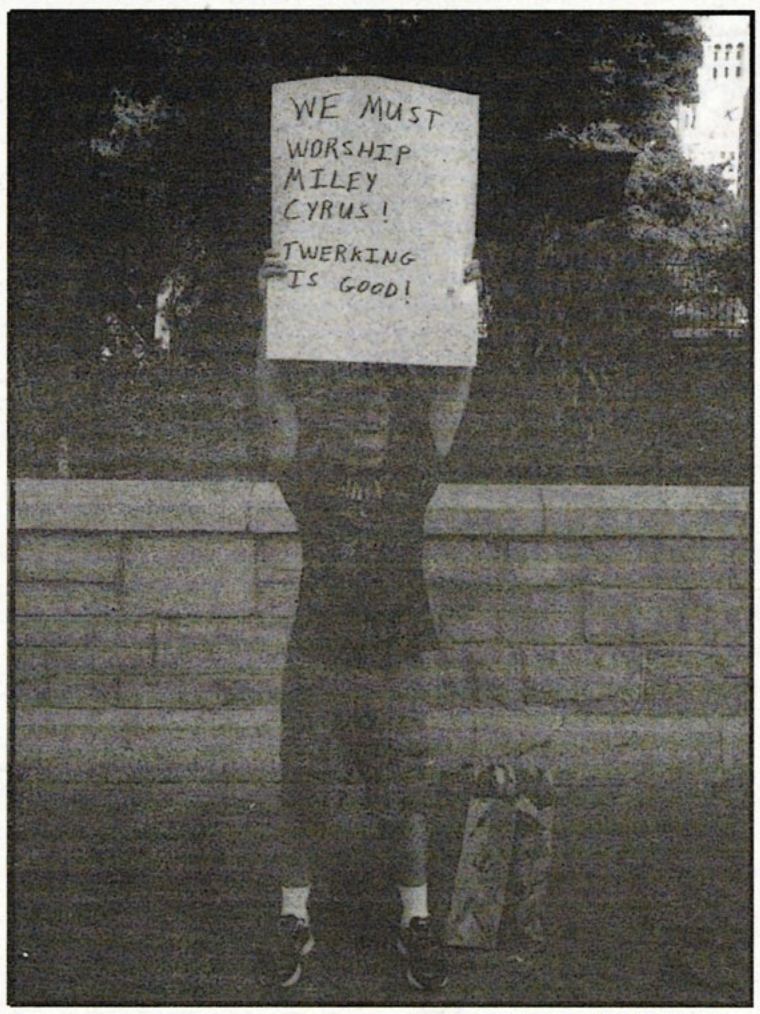

Photo From Miley Cyrus Twitter Account

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Arts & Entertainment

Genius Animator Rumored To Retire With One Last Enchantment

By Racheljoy Capitola
Editor-in-Chief

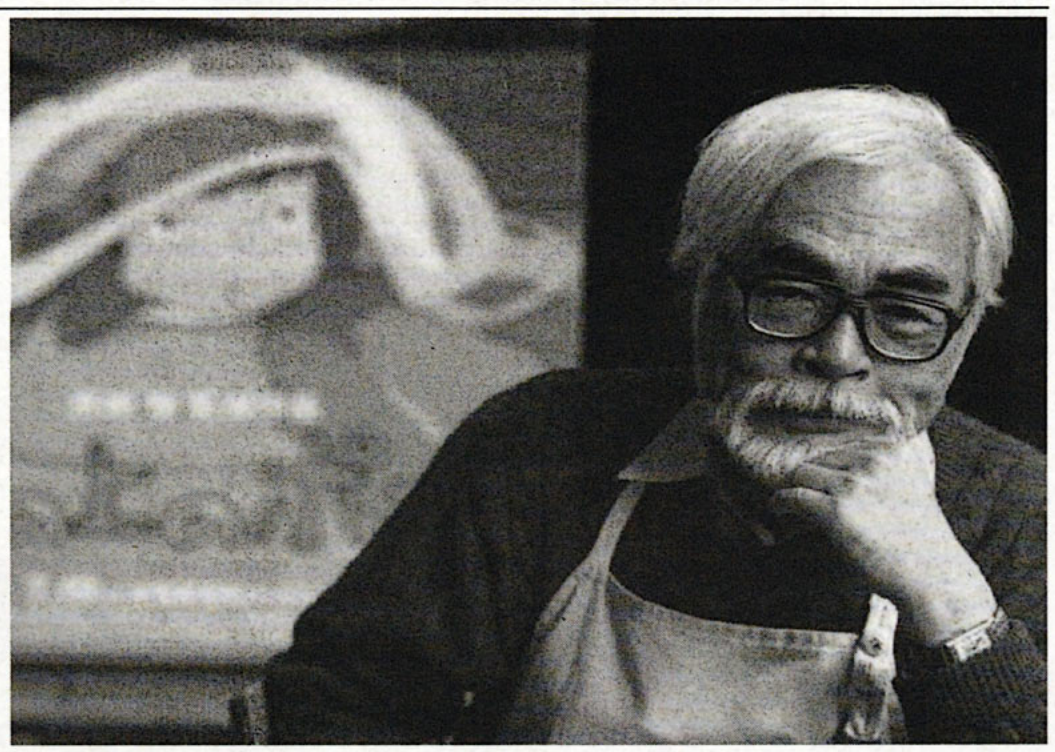
Hayao Miyazaki, a visionary Oscar-winning animator, declared his retirement from the filmmaking industry during the Venice Film Festival, but not without leaving his fans one last movie to remember him by called The Wind Rises.

Koji Hoshino, who is the head of Studio Ghibli, made the announcement for Miyazaki on Sunday, according to Variety Magazine's online website.

"Miyazaki has decided that Kaze Tachinu (The Wind Rises) will be his last film, and he will now retire," said Hoshino.

Rumors around the internet claim this isn't the first time Miyazaki has threatened to retire from the business. After his release of *Princess Mononoke*, he was said to have entered semi-retirement before ending up returning to Studio Ghibli in order to continue his work. Whether or not these claims are true, it looks like Miyazaki, at the age of 72, may be serious about his current retirement plan.

The director has been responsible for the production of 11 animated films, including his new release, over the course of 34 years. Some of his greatest animated films include *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Ponyo*. He even won an Oscar in 2003 for Spirited Away, a story which focuses on a young girl named Chihiro who accidentally crosses into a world of gods, witches, and spirits.



Picture from: http://www.cartoonbrew.com

The film *The Wind Rises* has been out in Japan for at least six weeks. According to the New York Times, the film has already made $80 million at the box office. There is yet to be a release date for when the movie will be distributed in the United States.

The Wind Rises is said by IMBD to follow the life a man named Jiro Horikoshi, who helped to design Japanese fighter planes during World War II.

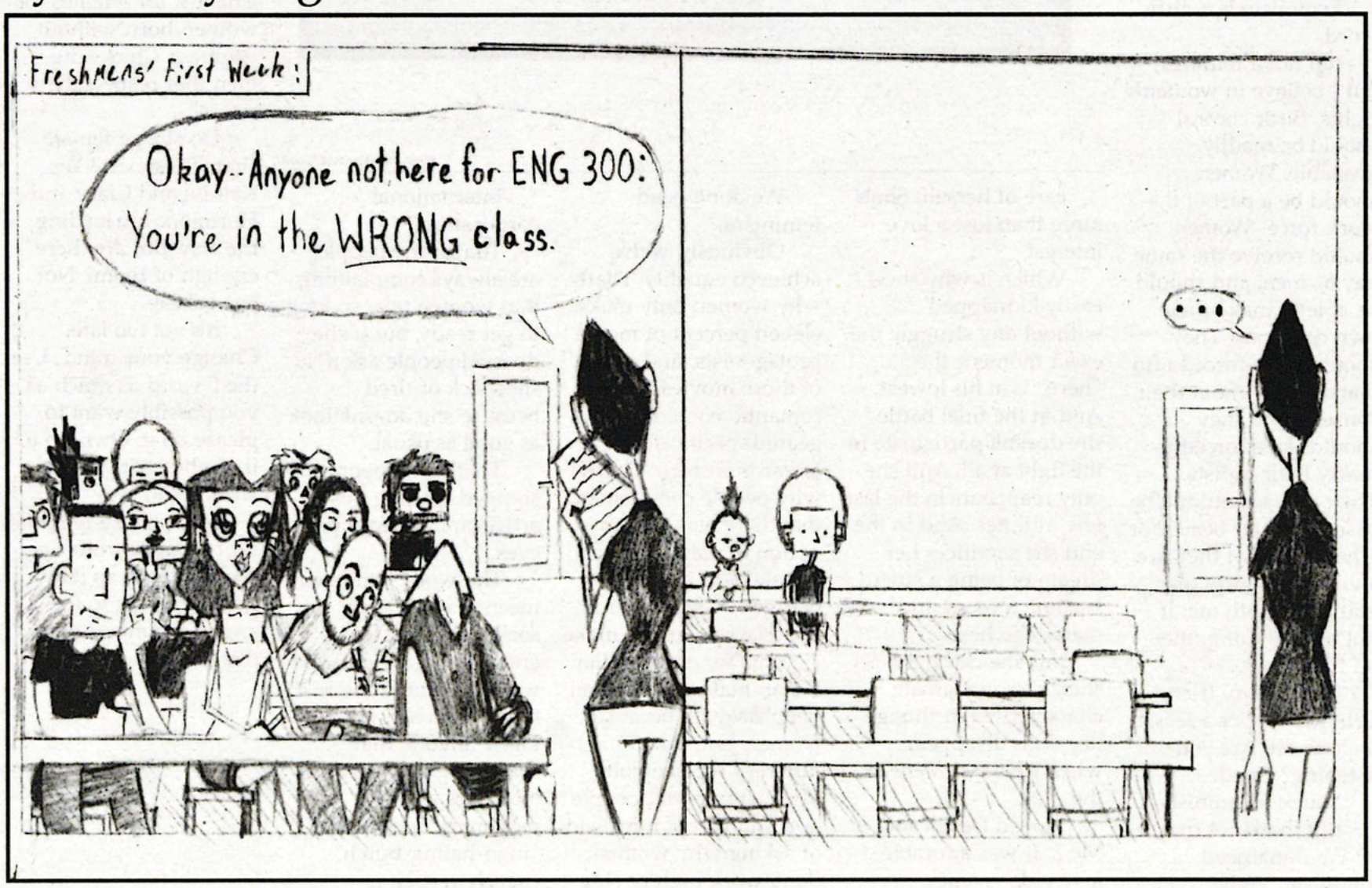
According to the Los Angeles Times, Miyazaki told a magazine he was inspired to create the film after reading a quote by Horikoshi: "All I wanted to do was to make something beautiful."

The animation is a biopic in tribute to him.

As told by Hoshino, more information about Miyazaki's retirement should be revealed next week at a news conference in Tokyo.

Comic

By Wendy Legorete



Opinions

The "F" Word

Ashley Reynolds
Entertainment Editor

"Raise your hand if you're a feminist."

The room had never been so silent. We uneasily glanced at one another. Most of us sat stock still. Abi's fingers twitched in hesitation, wanting to lift, but afraid of what might happen. Not a single person raised their hand.

"Why not?" Dr. Campion asked. She leaned on the table at the front of the room and watched us, waiting for some brave soul to reply.

"We've already achieved our rights," a girl answered. "We can vote and work."

Feminists, after all, women who hate men and complain about things that are all in good fun. They aren't feminine at all. Feminism was once a good thing, an important thing- without it, we would still be stuck in the house, good for nothing but marrying and raising children- but it has run its course.

Feminism is a dirty word.

I'm not a feminist, but I believe in women's rights. Birth control should be readily available. Women should be a part of the work force. Women should receive the same pay as men, and should be able to make their own decisions. They shouldn't be forced into marriages without their consent, and they shouldn't be forced to marry their rapists. Their value shouldn't be based on their beauty or whether or not they are a virgin. Chances are you agree with me. If not on one thing, then on the others.

Come here, friend. Let me whisper a secret in your ear. Are you listening? Good.

You're a feminist.

But that's not true, is it? We don't need feminism. We've achieved equality. If you need proof, look at strong female characters in the media, even kid's movies. Despicable Me 2 starred Lucy. She's awesome! She's tough, but doesn't sacrifice her femininity. Her signature weapon is a lipstick taser, she's a great agent for the Anti-Villain League, and she can fight. She's a heroine. She can obviously take care of herself. She's more than just a love interest.

Photo From Microsoft Clipart

Which is why she's easily kidnapped without any struggle the exact moment the "hero" is at his lowest. And in the final battle she doesn't participate in the fight at all. And she only reappears in the last few minutes. And in the end she sacrifices her dream of being a spy to become a mom and marry the hero.

But she can fight! So she's a strong female character! Even though her skills disappear when it's convenient to the plot.

I loved Despicable Me 2. It was adorable. I love video games, arguably the most male-dominated entertainment industry. People mistake having problems with something as being unable to enjoy it. When a person opens their mouth to complain about women in entertainment, we groan. We've heard it all before.

We've heard it all before, but it continues.

We don't need feminism.

Obviously, we've achieved equality. That's why women only make eleven percent of movie protagonists, and most of those movies are romantic comedies geared specifically towards women. That's why people complained that there was even an option to play as a female hero in RPGs, because it "feels weird." That's why women make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, and when people say it's because women just work different types of jobs that just pay less, people nod and accept it instead of asking why women don't work high paying jobs. That's why 90 percent of people who have an eating disorder are female. That's why strong female characters eventually need to be rescued by the male protagonists.

That's why when I told a customer at Beall's that I was getting a degree in Global Studies, they replied, "Oh, good. So you can be a secretary for an international corporation."

That's why people are always complaining that women take so long to get ready, but if she doesn't, people ask if she's sick or tired because she doesn't look as good as usual.

That's why people stopped reading this article and rolled their eyes.

The word feminism means "advocating social, political, legal, and economic rights for women equal to those of men." That's it. I don't know anyone that doesn't agree with that. Nowhere in the dictionary does it say "man-hating butch" (which in itself is derogatory).

I love men. I love men! Men are pretty. And they smell so good- well, the majority that showers anyway. They carry my things for me because I'm a weakling. Sure, there are big jerks, but girls can also be big jerks.

And I'm feminine! My closet is full of dresses and pretty floral skirts. I only own one pair of shoes that aren't sandals or heels, even though I know far more feminine women who wear nothing but sneakers.

And I have a sense of humor!

And -believe it or not- I love male protagonists!

A feminist can be all of these things or none of these things. Feminists embrace femininity and sexuality, even if they themselves are not feminine or sexually inclined. Men can be feminists too! Men should be feminists! John Legend, Seth Meyers, Joss Whedon, and Ryan Gosling are all feminists. My boyfriend is an even bigger feminist than I am. Believing in equality isn't just for females (or women born without vaginas). Chicks dig men that respect their rights!

Do strong female characters exist? Yes. Katniss and Clary and Hermione are leading the way. But are there enough of them? Not even close.

It's not too late. Change your mind. Use the F word as much as you possibly want to, please do it. Own up to it. Embrace it. We have work to do.

More angry feminist rants coming your way soon (as soon as I'm done replying to the angry comments from this one).